

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 04736 140853Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 VO-05 INSE-00
/046 W

-----008005 150556Z /21

R 140801Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9914
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USMISSION GENEVA
USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 4736

E.O. 11653: N/A
TAGS: SREF, VM, MC
SUBJ: DECREASING REFUGEE ACCOMMODATION CAPACITY IN HONG KONG

REF: (A) STATE 092847; (B) GENEVA 05403 (NOTAL BOTH)

1. AS DEPT INDICATED IN REFTEL (A), MACAU WOULD HAVE BEEN SOLUTION FOR REFUGEES ON NORWEGIAN TANKER. WE BELIEVE THAT IT COULD ALSO OFFER SOLUTION TO INCREASINGLY TIGHT REFUGEE ACCOMMODATION PROBLEM IN HONG KONG.

2. REFTEL (B) NOTED THAT SAMPATKUMAR INTENDS TO DISCUSS REFUGEE SITE ON AN ISLAND WITH HONG KONG AUTHORITIES. SOURCE IN IMMIGRATION DEPT TOLD US THAT ISLAND IS CHEUNG CHAU, BUT THERE ARE NUMBER OF PROBLEMS WITH THIS. IT APPEARS THAT CHEUNG CHAU WILL BE REJECTED BY HONG KONG GOVT AS NOT SUITABLE.

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3. RECENT PRESS ARTICLES HAVE INDICATED MACAU GOVT WILLINGNESS ESTABLISH FACILITIES TO ACCOMMODATE UP TO 200 BOAT CASE REFUGEES. SINCE IMPROVED WEATHER AND SAILING CONDITIONS CAN BE EXPECTED TO INCREASE REFUGEE FLOW IN THIS DIRECTION NEXT FEW MONTHS, WE BELIEVE THAT MACAU POSSIBILITY SHOULD BE EXPLORED SOONEST BY UNHCR.

4. SAMPATKUMAR WILL ARRIVE IN HONG KONG END OF NEXT WEEK, BUT WILL BE ON TIGHT SCHEDULE WITH ONE WORKING DAY HERE. WE WILL BRING MACAU ALTERNATIVE TO HIS ATTENTION, BUT WE DOUBT HE WILL HAVE TIME TO EXPLORE IT IN ANY DEPTH, IF INTERESTED, BEFORE LEAVING HONG KONG TO ARRIVE IN GENEVA ON APRIL 25.

5. WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPT STRONGLY ENCOURAGE UNHCR TO DISCUSS MACAU OFFER WITH SAMPATKUMAR AFTER HE ARRIVES IN GENEVA TO ENSURE THAT THIS POTENTIAL SOLUTION FOR ACCOMMODATION PROBLEM IN HONG KONG IS GIVEN ATTENTION IT DESERVES.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: REFUGEES, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition Reason:
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Litigation History:
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